

Inquiries of the Ministry

the United States and Canada in this connection been based on a memorandum sent to the United States on April 5, 1956, in which Canada said that she would bear no part of the cost of the investigation outside of that connected with the fisheries, and also that in joining in the reference to the international joint commission the Canadian government would make no commitment regarding the eventual construction of this project?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I have not the text of the reference, which is of considerable length. My hon. friend will be able to read it, because it is being made public. However, it does provide for a division of the cost and on our side we have set a limit to what we think should be our proportion. I am not aware at the moment of the latter condition which the hon. member mentioned, but I will see that he gets a copy of the reference this morning.

Mr. Brooks: I have here a copy of the recommendation the department made, which indicates that Canada would bear \$300,000 of the cost and the United States would bear \$3 million, and that Canada would in no way be obligated to help with the project even though it was found feasible.

Mr. Pearson: I am not sure whether those conditions are repeated in those terms in the reference, but I will be glad to look into that right away.

HEALTH AND WELFARE**FISHER RIVER RESERVE HOSPITAL—STATEMENT ON QUALITY OF TREATMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. F. G. Robertson (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, on July 31 the hon. member for Selkirk asked the following question:

When Peter Thom, treaty Indian, was admitted to Fisher River reserve hospital, was a third-year medical student the only person available to treat him?

This Indian was admitted to the Altona, Manitoba, hospital on July 1 following injuries he had received across the border. At the request of the doctor in charge at Altona he was transferred by ambulance to St. Boniface hospital the same day. He was treated there for dislocation of both hips and placed in a plaster cast. His condition improved, and on July 13 St. Boniface hospital authorities asked the regional office of the Indian health services if he could be transferred to an Indian hospital. A bed was available in the Fisher River Indian hospital and he was transferred that day to this hospital.

The doctor in charge at the Fisher River hospital had resigned and his replacement had not yet arrived, and his assistant, a third-year medical student employed for the summer, was at the hospital. This medical student had instructions to call a practising physician 20 miles distant for assistance at any time, and it was this physician who was the designated physician in charge at the hospital and available when required.

Mr. William Bryce (Selkirk): May I ask a supplementary question. Why was this treaty Indian, Peter Thom, moved to Fisher River hospital when no doctor was due there for three or four days? I should like to know this, also. At the inquest was it established whether the Indian, Peter Thom, was run over intentionally or accidentally?

Mr. Robertson: Mr. Speaker, I presume the authorities at St. Boniface hospital felt that this man was in a suitable physical condition for transfer to the Fisher River hospital. As to the latter part of the question, I do not believe that that feature of the case comes under the jurisdiction of the Indian health services, but I understand that a further investigation is being carried out by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration.

Mr. Bryce: May I ask the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration whether he will look into it? The man died in this hospital.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I have looked into the matter. The regional supervisor in Manitoba drew this case to the attention of the attorney general of Manitoba and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have investigated it; but since this accident or crime, or whatever it may have been, took place in the United States, in the state of North Dakota, the only thing the attorney general was able to do was to draw the proceedings at the inquest to the attention of the state authorities in North Dakota. I am informed that is being done and that the police are keeping their file open.

Of course, it is not the duty of my department, or indeed of the federal government, to enforce the law in the province of Manitoba, and much less in the state of North Dakota; but because this man was an Indian we did follow the matter up with the appropriate provincial authorities.

PIPE LINES**TRANS-CANADA PIPE LINES—INQUIRY AS TO AVAILABILITY OF PIPE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. M. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): Mr. Speaker, has the Minister of Trade and Commerce any information as to